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MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

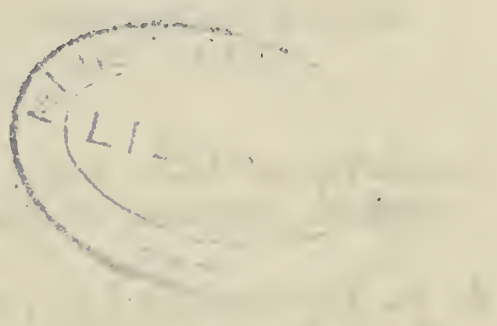
and of the

CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

for the year

1952.

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Margaret C. Fell,

Medical Officer of Health.

A.L. Pratt,

Chief Sanitary Officer &  
Building Surveyor.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

Chairman of the Council            Mr. F. B. Jacomb, J.P.  
Vice-Chairman of the Council   Mr. A. R. Coats, F.C.I.I.

Members of the Public Health Committee

Dr. B. G. Goodwin, J.P.   Chairman  
Mr. D. N. Costello,   Vice-Chairman

Mr. E. M. Badger	Mrs. C. E. Moreton-Jackson
Mr. R. Colwill	Mr. A. C. Ralph
Mr. L. G. Recordon	Mr. A. D. Cullen
Mr. R. S. Reeves	Mr. A. N. Cutler
Mr. C. C. Townsend	Miss A. M. Enderby
Mr. W. F. Watton	Sir F. Winnington, Bart.

Public Health Staff of the Authority

Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Chief Sanitary Officer & Building Surveyor.

J. D. Blakeway, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Additional Sanitary Officer.

Miss P. A. A. Roche,  
Shorthand/Typist & Clerk.

H. G. Dew,  
Assistant Rodent Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952

Public Health Department,  
1 The Tything,  
Worcester.

August, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1952.

The year 1952 must be recorded as one of outstanding achievement in the history of the Martley Rural District as it saw the beginning of the comprehensive water supply scheme for the district, due in no small measure to the foresight and endeavour of the Chairman.

The Council are to be congratulated on their efforts to press forward with this scheme which should provide a plentiful and wholesome water supply for the population.

I consider that the most urgent public health problem facing the Council at the present time is the provision of better housing conditions for the people. Although good progress has been made with the building of new houses during the post-war years there are still many bad cases of overcrowding in the district and when these have been dealt with there will be the problem of the sub-standard houses to be tackled. A number of these sub-standard houses are so unfit that demolition will be necessary. Others however, could with substantial repair and improvement be made habitable for a number of years and it would be advisable for the Council to encourage Landlords to improve their property in suitable cases by making available Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

It is pleasing to report that the general health of the district remained satisfactory during the year. The large number of cases of measles notified towards the end of the year formed part of a generalised epidemic which affected the country as a whole.

In accordance with the usual custom the report is divided into the following sections:-

Section A Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

Section B General Provision of Health Services for the area.

Section C Sanitary Conditions of the area.

Section D Housing.

Section E Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Section F Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for their help and co-operation during the year, also to my colleagues and to the members of the Council's staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Margaret C. Fell,

Medical Officer of Health.



# SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley, comprising 52,838 acres is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the district dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hopgrowing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district. These come mainly from the Black Country.

Vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables:-

Area in acres.....	52,838
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1953) according to rate book.....	3,515
Rateable Value.....(1st April, 1953).....	£41,090
Sum represented by one penny rate.....	£167
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1952).....	11,470

### VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	106	92	198
Illegitimate.....	6	4	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			20.16
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period.....			15.3

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	4	1	5
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			0.42
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales.....			0.35

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes.....	75	38	113
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			8.91
Rate for England and Wales.....			11.3

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate.....	5	3	8
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year..... 38  
 Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period..... 27.6

<u>Deaths from Special Causes</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Deaths from Cancer.....	24	20	10
Deaths from Measles.....	nil	nil	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	nil	nil	nil

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-
Measles.....	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
Cancer of Stomach.....	1	1
Cancer of Lung.....	3	0
Cancer of Breast.....	-	-
Cancer of Uterus.....	-	-
Cancer of all other sites.....	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	1
Diabetes.....	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	13	14
Coronary disease, angina.....	8	4
Hypertension with heart disease.....	3	-
Other heart disease.....	15	6
Other circulatory disease.....	4	-
Influenza.....	-	-
Pneumonia.....	4	3
Bronchitis.....	6	-
Other Respiratory diseases.....	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
Congenital malformations.....	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	4
Road traffic accidents.....	4	-
All other accidents.....	-	-
Suicide.....	1	-
Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-



## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (a) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. The ambulance station which serves the district is situated in Worcester. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

#### (b) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

This service is provided by the County Council. In most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District-nurse Midwife who is also the Health Visitor.

The following nurses are working in the District:-

Nurse O'Brien	-	Nurses Home, Knightwick
Nurse Bell	-	1 Ednoll Cottages, Leigh
Nurse Williams	-	Nurses Home, Hallow
Nurse Hearle	-	Nurses Home, Hallow
Nurse Powick	-	Gray Haze, Shrawley
Nurse Powell	-	Birch House, Lindridge
Nurse Kingston	-	Red House, Martley
Nurse Powell	-	14 Apple Tree Walk, Ombersley
Nurse Allen	-	Eastham, Tenbury

#### (c) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to hospitals at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated in Worcester, Malvern and Knightwick.

#### (d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the following clinics:-

##### Ante-natal Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster.

Open every Monday in the month at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester.

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Parish Hall, Hallow.

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2 p.m.

Club Room, Bell Inn, Broadheath.

Open on first and third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Chantry School, Martley.

Open on the second Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick.

Open on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Clifton-on-Teme.

Open on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh.

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Great Witley.

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Little Witley.

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley.

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2 p.m.

Parish Room, Holt.

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 3 p.m.

Concern was expressed by members of the Council during the year about the lack of facilities for dental inspection and treatment of school children in the district. The attention of the County Council was drawn to this matter and, at the time of writing, an assurance has been given by the County Medical Officer that this service will be resumed in the Martley Rural District towards the end of 1953.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patients own doctor or at any of the County Council's clinics.

The following inoculations were done during the year:-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year - 150.

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year - 124.

Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year - 119.

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year - 28.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT 1951

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of persons who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health by the Welfare Officers of the County Council or by private doctors. The people concerned are usually aged men or women in poor circumstances who have lived in the same house for many years and have been left alone through bereavement.

With advancing years these old people become less able to look after themselves and consequently they are frequently found in a dirty and neglected state. Even so, from the experience I have gained in visiting these old people I have formed the opinion that compulsory powers for their removal to institutions should only be sought in the most extreme cases.

It appears that this problem of elderly people living alone is likely to increase with an ageing population and I consider that methods of helping these old people in their own homes by the provision of meals and other amenities should be considered and developed in the future.

No case was dealt with under these sections during the year in the Rural District. Several cases were dealt with by informal action.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

A water supply which is adequate in both quality and quantity is lacking in the greater part of the Martley Rural District, it is estimated that approximately 95% of the population obtain their water supply from shallow wells, and in order to overcome this defect the Council have resolved to proceed with the provision of a comprehensive water scheme, prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer, which will bring a wholesome and abundant supply of water to all parts of the district.

At the present time only three parishes in the district obtain any of their water supply from public mains.

North Hallow is supplied with water from Worcester County Borough, the source of this water is the River Severn and it proved adequate both in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Clifton-on-Teme derives its water supply from a spring situated to the West of the Village. Records show that samples of this water taken for analysis during the past twelve years varied in quality from time to time.

Four houses in the Parish of Leigh Sinton have a mains supply from Malvern Urban District.

The remainder of the Rural District derives its water supply from shallow wells. In some parts of the district the water from these wells is inadequate in quantity and water carting becomes necessary during a period of drought. Of 43 samples taken from these wells during the year, 27 were classified as unsatisfactory in quality.

In some parishes in the Rural District the building of new houses is being prevented by the lack of an adequate water supply.

In February, 1952 a Public Local Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the matter of the Council's Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme and in October of the same year the work of sinking the first borehole at Astley was begun.



Section C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (continued)

2. Sewerage

Sewerage schemes or extensions to existing sewerage schemes are now necessary in the parishes of Broadheath, Great Witley, Clifton-on-Teme and Martley. The scheme at Broadheath is urgently necessary in order to alleviate a public health nuisance, to improve conditions at the school and in order to proceed with the building of new houses. At the end of the year the Ministry's approval of this scheme had not been obtained.

The following table gives particulars of the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district:-

	From Public Mains				From private supplies e.g. wells, springs.	Sewerage and Sewage Disposal					
	Direct to Houses	By means of stand-pipe	No. of Dwell: houses	Popul-ation		No. of Dwell: connected to pub. sewer	Population served	No. of houses with			
								Pails	Cesspits etc.	Private installations	
Parish	No. of Dwell: houses	Popul-ation	No. of Dwell: houses	Popul-ation	No. of Dwell: houses	Popul-ation	No. of Dwell: connected to pub. sewer	Population served	Pails	Cesspits etc.	Private installations
Abberley	-	-	-	-	155	504	11	36	89	42	16
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	127	413	-	-	71	38	18
Astley	-	-	-	-	361	1173	-	-	281	64	16
Bransford	-	-	-	-	84	273	-	-	60	24	-
Broadheath	-	-	-	-	219	711	-	-	147	47	25
Broadwas	-	-	-	-	79	256	-	-	55	23	1
Clifton-on-Teme	76	247	13	42	40	130	74	236	45	9	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	37	120	-	-	18	19	-
Doddenham	-	-	-	-	73	237	-	-	53	18	2
Grinley	-	-	-	-	195	633	-	-	142	52	1
Hallow	121	393	-	-	201	653	192	624	99	22	9
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	107	-	-	21	8	4
Holt	-	-	-	-	104	328	-	-	62	19	23
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	9	30	-	-	5	4	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	40	130	-	-	35	5	-
Leigh	6	20	-	-	291	945	27	88	248	45	4
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	41	133	-	-	36	35	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	276	897	51	166	186	23	4
St. Johns	1	3	-	-	178	578	86	279	68	9	2
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	49	159	-	-	31	9	9
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	-	59	192	-	-	50	7	-
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	74	240	-	-	66	2	1
Shelsley Welsh	-	-	-	-	13	42	-	-	11	11	-
Shrawley	-	-	-	-	139	452	-	-	117	21	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	159	517	-	-	121	18	20
Wichenford	-	-	-	-	104	328	-	-	92	11	1
Witley, Great	-	-	-	-	104	328	19	62	57	26	2
Witley, Little	-	-	-	-	55	179	-	-	37	6	12



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

#### Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1)	by the local authority .. .. .	6
(2)	by other bodies or persons .. .. .	18

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	49
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	157
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under one above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. .	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	nil
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	3
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	40

#### 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:-

(1)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	13
(2)	Number of houses where urgent repairs carried out by informal action .. .. .	16

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers

(A)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	2	
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
	(a) By owners .. .. .	4	
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	nil	
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	6	
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
	(a) By Owners .. .. .	2	
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	nil	

## Section D - Housing (Continued)

(C)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted .. .. .	3
(D)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	nil

### 4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding:-

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year ..	} not known
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	4
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	15
	(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved .. .. .	nil

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out during the year and a number of improvements effected as a result of informal action.

The Council's byelaws, made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1948, for "Securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air" were put into operation during the year.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

#### Tuberculosis After Care

The Tuberculosis After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met quarterly during the year. This Committee gives help to and provides comforts for needy tuberculous patients and their families.

Mrs. Moreton-Jackson, the Council's representative on this Committee, gave valuable assistance by raising funds for the use of the Committee in the Martley Rural District.

Five cases in the Martley Rural District were assisted by the Committee during the year.

The following tables show the incidence of notifiable diseases which occurred in the district during the year:-



Section F. Infectious Disease

The incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1952 is shown in the following Table

	Under One Year.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Total cases notified
1. Smallpox									-
2. Scarlet Fever				7	1				8
3. Diphtheria									-
4. Enteric Fever									-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia							1		1
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia			2			1	6	4	13
7. Erysipelas						1	4		5
8. Encephalitis Lethargica									-
9. Measles (excluding Rubella)	1	6	16	41	27	1	1		93
10. Whooping Cough	3	12	13	17	3	1	5		54
11. Acute Poliomyelitis		1		1					2
12. Dysentery									-
13. Food Poisoning					1				1
14. Ophthalmia Neonatorum									-

# TUBERCULOSIS

## New cases and Mortality during 1952

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths <sup>*</sup>			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55								
65 and over								
Totals	4	6	1	-	-	1	-	-

<sup>\*</sup>Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register and  
Local Registrar's Death Returns.

## Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1948	30	24	18	17	89
1949	28	26	16	17	87
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96
1952	37	33	13	15	98



MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

Public Health Department,  
1 The Tything,  
Worcester.

August, 1953.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth annual report on the work of my Department in relation to the administration of the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The year under review has been an active one for Departments of the Council and the highlight has been the commencement, the sinking of a trial borehole, of the comprehensive water scheme designed to cover every parish in the Rural District. The curtailment by the Government of all sewerage schemes proposed by the Council is disappointing as they will be needed urgently when piped water becomes available. Until permission is given to proceed with these works, the interim period could be employed in preparing draft schemes for other areas so that Ministry approval can be obtained quickly when the ban on such work is lifted.

The completion rate of Council houses fell considerably during the year owing to various causes but it is anticipated that the normal rate will be resumed in 1953. It is essential that this rate should keep pace with that in neighbouring towns to avoid the emigration of young agricultural workers. This fact was stressed as far back as 1944 in a report of the Central Housing Advisory Committee and it is even more important at the present time. The reconditioning of suitable houses as well as the provision of new houses can assist towards this end and it is hoped that greater use can be made of the improvement grant and the "subsidy" house to enable private enterprise to play a greater part in the housing programme.

In the public health field, greater stress is being laid on the hygiene of food premises and more time has been spent on the inspection and improvement of conditions in food shops, cafés and licensed premises. There is an increased demand by the general public for improvement in these matters and the Public Health Department is pleased to play its part in bringing a sense of responsibility to all food handlers.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

A. L. Pratt.

Chief Sanitary Officer &  
Building Surveyor.

# 1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS

The Council continued to carry out the duties delegated to them by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act and the arrangement worked smoothly during the year. The County Council, with the approval of the District Council, withdrew from the delegation action in respect of shacks and caravans in order that these matters could be considered on a larger scale and appropriate action taken to deal with the problem.

During the year the County Development Plan was submitted to the Minister.

There were no "differences of opinion" between the District Council and the County Planning Officer necessitating reference to the County Planning Committee during the year. A Revocation Order was made regarding an outline approval to extend a factory at Martley; the applicants appealed and the Minister upheld the appeal and gave approval to the project. Only one other appeal was made and in this case the Minister upheld the Council's decision.

Few cases of unauthorised development were reported and only three Enforcement Notices were issued; in two cases the offending structures were removed before the end of the permitted time.

The only major development in Planning during the year was the abolition of the Development Charge; it was thought that this would promote the easier acquisition of land and reduce the cost of building.

Towards the end of the year new Model Building Byelaws were issued with a request by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that they should be adopted before the 30th June, 1953. The complexity and length of the Model, together with the entirely new policy on which it is based, will necessitate detailed examination by the Committee and the officers and it is doubtful if the new Byelaws will be in operation before the end of 1953.

Details of applications to develop, etc., are given in tabular form below:-

## Applications to Develop under Planning Act

	Plans for new con- struction	Outline applic- ations	Informal enquiries	Change of use of land and buildings	Total
Brought forward from 1951	2	-	3	25 <sup>x</sup>	30
Received during 1952	60	5	15	16	96
Total applications dealt with	62	5	18	41	126

<sup>x</sup>Including 24 applications to retain "shacks" referred to the County Council.

Applications approved	53	5	15	12	85
Applications refused	5	-	2	3	10
Applications referred to County Council	-	-	-	26	26
Applications withdrawn	2	-	-	-	2
Applications outstanding	2	-	1	-	3
Total	62	5	18	41	126



## 1. Town Planning and Building Byelaws (continued)

### Applications under Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1951	-	2
Received during 1952	-	70
		<hr/> 72
Applications approved	-	69
Applications refused	-	1
Applications outstanding	-	2
		<hr/> <hr/> 72

## 2. HOUSING

### A. Building Licensing

The Council continued during the year to carry out the functions delegated to them by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

In March, 1952 the Council received an allocation of 40 houses but, after furnishing details of applications for licences and progress in building to the Minister, they were allowed to issue a greater number of licences.

The raising of the "free allowance" to £200 per annum for repairs, etc., to existing houses reduced the number of applications for repair licences and the Council were able to keep within their "ceiling" figure and still issue licences for work considered to be essential.

Details of licences issued and of progress in the provision of housing accommodation are given below:-

### Issue of Licences

	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>Amount</u>
		£
New Houses	20	47,118
Conversions and additional accommodation	16	10,403
House repairs	19	6,990
Other repairs, Supplementary Licences, etc.	10	2,225
		<hr/>
Total	65	66,736
		<hr/>

## 2. Housing (continued)

### Provision of Housing Accommodation

	Council Houses	Private Houses			Total
		Min of Works licence	Subsidy	Private licence	
No. of houses under construction 1.1.52	nil	3	5	2	10
No. of licences issued during 1952	-	4	3	22	29
No. of houses under construction 31.12.52	36	5	3	14	58
No. of houses completed and occupied during 1952.	6	2	9	7	24

In addition eight units of accommodation were provided by conversion of buildings to dwellings during the year. The table below shows the units of accommodation provided during the past five years:-

Year	Council houses	Private Houses				Total
		Min: of Works licence	Subsidy	Private licence	Conver-sion	
1948	51	-	-	25	8	84
1949	21	-	-	11	-	32
1950	34	1	4	12	2	53
1951	35	2	3	3	4	47
1952	6	2	9	7	8	32
Total	147	5	16	58	22	248

## B. Housing

The general standard of housing accommodation in the district has shown little improvement during the year. The concentration by builders on the erection of new houses and the cost of repair work has caused a certain resistance by Landlords to all but minor works of repair to their premises. The raising of the "free allowance" under Building Licences from £100 to £200 per house did not affect the carrying out of repairs to small rented premises as lack of money, and not the inability to obtain a Building Licence, is the excuse made by the majority of owners when asked to carry out major repairs. Many schemes have been advocated in an attempt to induce owners to maintain their property but, until some drastic amendment is made to the Rent Restriction Acts or new legislation is introduced, the deterioration in housing standards will continue and Local Authorities will find it even more difficult to carry out their duties under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The amendment of the maximum and minimum expenditure that may be incurred on work for which an improvement grant may be made under the Housing Act, 1949 should assist in accelerating the improvement of existing dwellings although the standard laid down by the Ministry is difficult to obtain in many instances within the limit of £800.

## C. Rehousing

The rehousing of persons living under overcrowded conditions or in houses which are in a dangerous condition has continued to be a matter for active



### C. Rehousing (continued)

co-operation between the Housing and Public Health Committees. All applications for Council Houses are investigated by the Public Health Department and reports and recommendations made direct to the Housing Committee when lettings are being made.

Owing to a temporary reduction in the number of new Council houses completed during the year, only seventeen lettings were made but of these eleven, or sixty-four per cent, went to cases recommended on Public Health grounds. The rent which has to be charged for new Council houses is becoming a factor which has to be considered by prospective tenants, especially those with large families who have lived for many years at a rent of 5/- to 10/- per week; the number of refusals of tenancies has shown a slight increase and it is thought that this will continue unless rent levels can be stabilised.

The co-operation and assistance of the Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee and the Housing Manager is greatly appreciated as, in this way, some progress in the improvement of housing conditions can be made.

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

#### A. House Drainage

During the year thirty-six septic tanks were installed, forty-three houses were connected to public sewers and forty-four houses connected to private sewage treatment plants (including Council Housing Schemes). The usual supervision was exercised over all new drainage schemes and treatment plants.

A table showing the number of houses connected to public sewers, etc., in each Parish is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### B. Sewerage Schemes

##### Rushwick

Eighty-six houses are now connected to the public sewer in this district of St. John County, approximately ninety-two per cent of the total number of houses on the line of the sewer.

##### Hallow

A detailed investigation into the overloading of the treatment works was made from which it was determined that, with the exception of the filter beds, serious overloading was occurring. Having regard to the curtailment by the Government of capital expenditure on all works of sewage disposal, it was thought that any major scheme of enlargement would be unlikely to be approved and that some interim measure must be adopted.

It was decided that additional sludge beds should be provided in order that desludging of the settlement and humus tanks could be carried out more frequently and steps are being taken to acquire the necessary land.

Experiments were started, with the co-operation of a neighbouring farmer, in the disposal of wet sludge by mixing with straw. The sludge is pumped through a pipe line to pits prepared by the farmer containing straw; these pits are filled with alternate layers of sludge and straw and are left until required for ploughing in. So far the experiment has been successful but the final test - the benefit to the land and crops - will not be determined for some time.



### 3. Sewerage and Sewage disposal - Hallow (continued)

A sample of the effluent from these works was taken in May by the Pollution Prevention Department of the Severn River Board, the result showed that the Biochemical Oxygen Demand was rather high (29 pts per million) but that the ammonia was well nitrified. This showed that the improvement in the quality of the effluent made last year has been maintained but that further improvement is still necessary; it is hoped that this will be effected by the provision of additional sludge beds.

#### Broadheath

The amended scheme to serve the school and the area near the Bell Inn, as suggested by the Ministry when postponing the major scheme for the Parish, was approved by the Council and a tender submitted to the Ministry. The County Council agreed to make a grant towards the cost of the scheme of an amount equal to that to be made by the Ministry.

The Ministry approved the tender submitted to them but, before work could be started, they notified the Council that owing to the curtailment in capital expenditure, authorisation to the carrying out of this scheme could not be given.

#### Clifton-on-Teme

The scheme for the provision of treatment works to replace treatment by land irrigation continued to be discussed with the Ministry in an attempt to effect economies in design. These discussions were discontinued in August when the Council were informed by the Ministry that authorisation could not be given for the present.

#### Martley

The scheme for extending a sewer to serve part of the Village was deferred by the Minister for reasons as stated above.

#### Abberley

A small public sewer discharging on to land at Town Farm, Abberley caused difficulty to cattle watering and approval was given by the Council to the installation of a two-compartment settling tank and to the piping of the effluent. This work was completed during the year and has solved the difficulty of cattle watering.

#### General

The deferment by the Government of all schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, except those relating to new housing sites, has been made, it is stated, by reason of the shortage of labour and materials and to enable more urgent schemes to be completed. The fact that schemes of piped water supply in rural areas are being allowed, and even encouraged, makes it imperative that, when such supplies are made available to the public, the disposal of drainage should already be accomplished. The cost to the public, the saving in labour and materials and the prevention of pollution of ditches and watercourses, apart from any consideration of health, are factors which outweigh any measures of economy and the disposal of sewage should not be the first social service to be curtailed.

In addition to schemes already prepared the following areas are in urgent need of sewerage and it is thought that consideration should be given now by the Council to their provision:-

Sinton Green, Leigh Sinton, Grimley Village, Great Witley, and Parkfield Lane, Hallow.



#### 4. WATER SUPPLIES

##### A. Private Supplies

No acute shortage of water from these supplies was felt during the year and no cartage of water had to be made. The fact that forty-three wells in the district were sampled during the year and twenty-seven found to be unsatisfactory adds to the evidence for the need of a piped supply to the whole of the District.

Nine wells were repaired and cleansed but it is becoming more difficult to obtain satisfactory supplies by this means and the number of premises where it is impossible to obtain a safe supply of drinking water continues to increase annually.

##### B. Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. No major extensions or alterations to these supplies were made during the year.

###### Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year for use in this Parish was 2,435,500 gallons as compared with 2,275,000 gallons in 1951.

Minor alterations to the pumping plant were carried out in an attempt to reduce the high pressure occurring in the pump and these alterations appear to be a success. The source of this supply, a spring, proved adequate throughout the year. A sample of the water taken for examination proved the water to be suitable for drinking purposes.

###### Hallow

The mains supply to a part of this parish is controlled by the City of Worcester. Several premises were connected to this supply during the year but extension of the mains is required before the supply can serve the whole parish.

###### Comprehensive Water Scheme

The comprehensive water scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer was the subject of a Public Inquiry held on the 6th February. Previously a joint meeting was held with representatives of the County Council, Bromyard U.D.C. and Bromyard R.D.C. regarding the provision of a bulk supply of water to the Bromyard Authorities.

Extensions to the original scheme in order to cover the whole of the Martley District were agreed by the Council.

Approval by the Ministry to the sinking of a trial borehole at Astley was received on 30th May and this work commenced on 1st September.

The Consulting Engineers to the Martley R.D.C. and Bromyard R.D.C. were instructed to consult on the question of a bulk supply being afforded to Bromyard R.D.C. if sufficient water could be obtained from the Astley Borehole.

Generally speaking, steady progress with this large scheme was made during the year and it is possible that work on a larger scale will be commenced during 1953.



## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

### A. Refuse Collection

The scheme for regular fortnightly collections in six parishes, at two-monthly intervals in seventeen parishes and three-monthly intervals in four parishes, was continued during the year.

The fortnightly collection service was maintained throughout the year but, owing to accidents and illness to the men and to mechanical breakdown of the transport, collections in the remainder of the district were frequently interrupted. This gave rise to a certain number of complaints but every effort was made to give a modified service whenever possible.

The cost of collection again increased during the year, due to repairs, increase in the price of petrol and in wages. Two increases in wages had to be made during the year, the first an increase of 8/6d. per week to driver/loaders and the second one of 3/8d. per week to all employees.

### B. Refuse Storage

The Council continued to encourage the use of suitable dustbins by selling to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge but the results were not satisfactory as only fifty bins were sold during the year.

In order to allow the collection scheme to be run more economically, and also to avoid accidents to the loaders, the time has come when storage in a proper dustbin should be insisted on and it is hoped that new legislation will facilitate the service of notices for this purpose.

### C. Refuse Disposal

Difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining suitable sites for tipping at strategic points in the district. If such sites could be found and developed the cost of collection could be reduced appreciably.

During the year two sites were filled, levelled and reinstated with soil; at the present time one has been planted with fruit trees and the other is growing a cereal crop.

### D. Salvage

The increased collection of salvage, following the 1951 National Publicity Campaign, was continued but, when at its height, the price of paper suddenly fell and the mills refused to take materials in any quantity. It would seem that there is insufficient co-ordination when publicity campaigns are started and this has an adverse effect both on the householder and the local authority who, in time, distrust all appeals for "saving in the nations interest."

The following quantities of salvage were sold during the year:-

Waste paper	-	all grades	-	18 tons	£145. 13. 11
Scrap metal	-	all grades	-	5 tons 4 cwts.	21. 14. 4
Rags	-		-	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.	8. 6. 3
Bottles	-	all grades	-	148 dozen	5. 2. 6
					<hr/>
					£180. 17. 0
					<hr/>



## 6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The supervision of all premises where food is sold or manufactured was continued during the year. Various small improvements to premises were effected, in every case by informal action.

Special attention was paid to licensed premises and a full investigation of all such premises was made. Generally speaking the premises were well kept but in several instances better facilities for cleanliness were required e.g. for glass washing, dish washing, etc. In several instances glasses had to be washed in the domestic sink as no facilities were available behind the bar.

The owners of several premises were consulted regarding the provision of better sanitary accommodation, both for the general public and for the tenants. The provision of flush lavatories is seriously hampered by the absence of main drainage and a piped water supply but, where improvements are possible, the owners are being pressed to provide them.

In this work active co-operation is maintained with the Police and Licensing Justices and it is anticipated that the majority of licensed premises will comply with a reasonable standard of amenity and hygiene within the next two years.

During the year the Council accepted from the County Council delegation of their powers under Sections 37 and 73(2) of the Shops Act, 1950. These powers relate to the provision of lighting, washing facilities, meals and seats for female employees

One case of food poisoning was reported during the year but a full investigation and sampling of food partaken by the patient failed to trace the cause.

### Slaughter Houses

Meat consumed in the District is slaughtered and inspected at the Worcester abattoir which is supervised by the Worcester City authority and no complaints regarding the condition of meat allocated to this area were received during the year.

Notification of all pigs to be killed privately in the district is given by the Food Office and these animals are inspected whenever possible.

### Ice-cream

Number of licences to retail ice-cream	-	36
Number of licences to manufacture ice-cream	-	1

Six routine samples were taken from the manufacturer and retailers during the year and all were certified as being satisfactory.

### Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 were carried out and all the premises were found to be satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district and only four dairymen are registered,

Towards the end of the year several reports were received from the County Council of brucella infection in milk from farms in the district. Full investigations were carried out and in certain cases milk from individual cows in the herd was sent for examination. It would appear that positive samples



## 6. Supervision of Food (continued)

X from the Ring test for brucellosis and the Whey test are considered by the Ministry insufficient evidence to justify the prohibition from sale of milk and that action on these lines should be taken only when it can be proved that infected milk has caused Undulant Fever in a human being. If this is the case it follows that no useful action can be taken by the local authority on receipt of Ring and Whey test results and that these tests are being carried out for academic reasons only.

## Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Camps and Moveable Dwellings

The new byelaws relating to tents, vans, sheds and similar buildings were confirmed by the Ministry during the year.

Regular inspections of all camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made and informal action only was required to keep the sites up to the required standard.

Sites for thirteen caravans were licensed, the majority for permanent occupation by people unable to find houses to rent.

### B. Hop Pickers Accommodation

The hop picking season started early in September and owing to a spell of wet weather in the late summer, the ripening and quality of the hops varied throughout the district. Reasonably dry weather was experienced during the picking season but it was much colder than usual.

Only four farms installed machines during the year and two farms bought a second machine.

Number of farms growing hops	-	56
" " " having machines	-	20
" " " housing pickers	-	30
" " " using local pickers only	-	15

According to the Food Office, 2,661 pickers were imported to the District but this figure does not include gypsies, a considerable number of these being present this year. Several farms now import labour daily from Worcester, Malvern, Stourport, etc., and do not house any pickers on the premises.

Comparable figures for previous years of imported pickers are given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Machines</u>	<u>Imported Pickers</u>
1944	1	6,723
1947	1	7,137
1949	1	6,447
1950	5	5,148
1951	16	2,820
1952	20	2,661

The condition of the quarters generally was good with the exception of the scavenging arrangements and several requests for improvement had to be made.



## 7. Miscellaneous - Hop Pickers Accommodation (Continued)

The Cleansing of the quarters prior to occupation was very good and over-crowding now appears to be a thing of the past; with fewer pickers to house it is a pity that scavenging and other items of a similar nature are not attended to more regularly.

Nursing facilities were provided to all the hop-growing farms in the district this year. The County Council arranged for three nurses to work full time amongst the hop-pickers and the Salvation Army rendered valuable service as in previous years. The local district nurse carried out these duties in several isolated hop-fields.

The arrangements worked smoothly and no special difficulties were reported. No case of infectious disease was notified amongst the hop-pickers.

Doctor Donaldson, Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, spent a day visiting the barracks prior to their occupation.

### C. Petroleum Act

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was sixty-nine and the gallonage involved was 59,810.

Four new installations were approved.

### D. Rodent Control

The use of new materials and methods has increased the rate of destruction of rats and mice and, with the increased inspection and treatment of farms, the district can be said to be reasonably free from any major infestations.

Free treatments to private houses are given on request whilst all business premises are treated at an inclusive charge of 10/- per hour.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
1. Private dwellings	169
2. Business premises	33
3. Local Authority Sewers	8
4. Local Authority Refuse Tips	25
5. Various other premises	21
Total	256

## SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	Registered	Inspections	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Factories with power	31	52	3	2
Factories without power	2	2	-	-
	33	54	3	2

In addition four inspections were made of the premises used by outworkers in the making of gloves.

